

# 2009 HMA Summit



## Colorado Springs Wildfire Mitigation



**FEMA**

**Christina Randall  
Colorado Springs Fire Dept  
May 2009**



**Hayman Fire 2002**



**Mason Gulch 2005**



**Fort Carson 1950**

# Fire History

A Wildfire Risk here in Colorado Springs?

- Westwood '05 / Incline Fire '07 / Sondermann Fire '09

Table 5  
Fire Risk Top Ten, Absolute Acres by County

County, State	Minimum	Medium	Maximum	Rank
Maricopa, AZ	130,694	81,295	12,161	1
Clark, NV	38,192	32,080	11,160	2
Pima, AZ	118,995	68,983	5,473	3
Pinal, AZ	49,804	24,822	2,631	4
Navajo, AZ	88,684	18,781	729	5
Santa Fe, NM	78,344	17,554	913	6
Coconino, AZ	70,852	16,342	1,106	7
Mohave, AZ	52,235	20,730	1,015	8
Yavapai, AZ	52,980	14,599	1,146	9
El Paso, CO	46,861	15,837	1,083	10

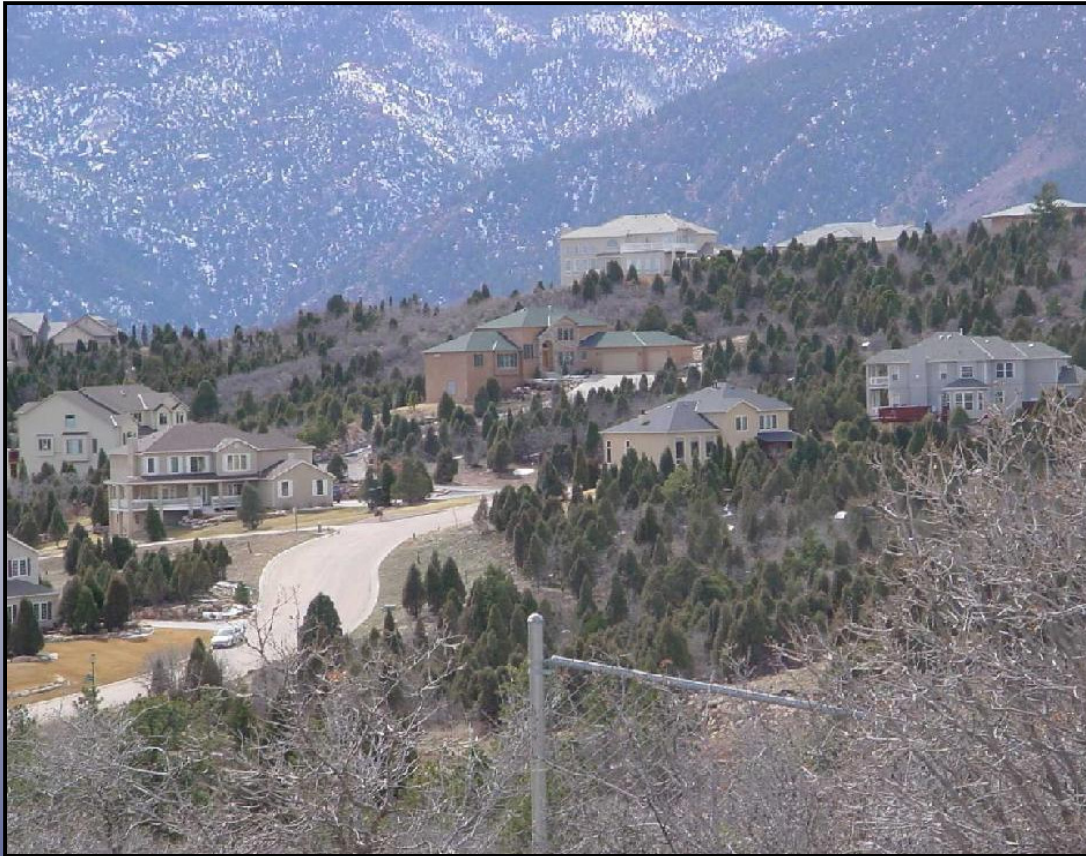
\*Source: 2007 Colorado College State of the Rockies Report Card



**FEMA**



# Values at Risk



- Residents
- Students and Staff
- Special Populations
- Property
- Infrastructure
- Wildlife Habitat
- Visual Corridor
- Cultural Resources



**FEMA**

# Goals



- 1. To reduce wildfire risk to life and property.**
- 2. To educate homeowners about wildfire mitigation.**



**FEMA**



# Objectives

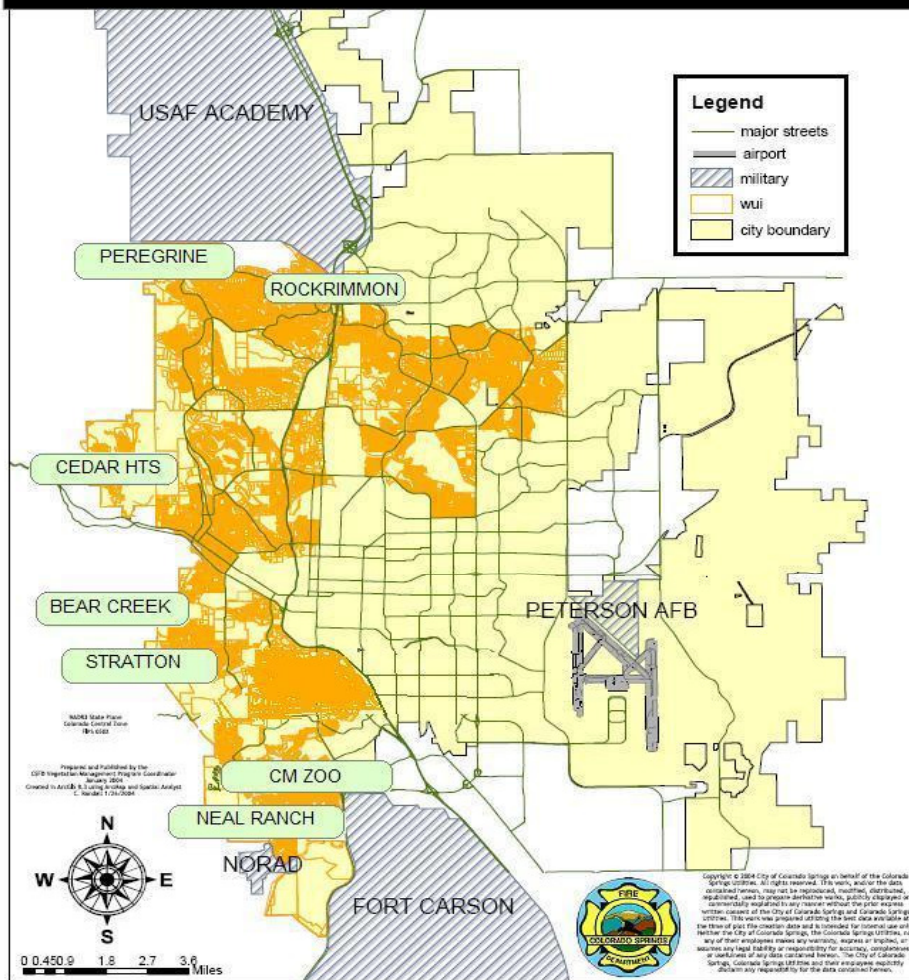


- 1. To remove at least 80% of the standing dead Gambel oak.**
- 2. To reduce fuel loading and “ladder fuels.”**
- 3. To maintain healthy oaks and pines; not clear cut.**
- 4. To manage for overstory pines and mature Douglas fir (natives with fire resistant characteristics)**



**FEMA**

Colorado Springs Fire Department  
Wildland Fire Pre-Disaster Mitigation Projects



# Project Areas

- Total Target: 500 acres
- Cost per acre from \$1600 - \$3000/acre
- 22% of the City lives in the Wildland Urban Interface
- Est. population in the WUI = 87,500 (COS Pop. 400k)



FEMA



# Means and Methods



- **Environmental Assessment**
- **Layout / GPS**
- **Contract, volunteer labor and/or seasonal labor**
- **Mechanical Treatment Only**
- **Hand thinning and Mastication**
- **Chip and scatter**
- **7-10 year maintenance schedule (CSFD, Parks and HOAs.)**



**FEMA**

# North Cheyenne Canyon - Untreated



NCC Oak Untreated



FEMA



# North Cheyenne Canyon - Treated



NCC Treated Oak



FEMA



# North Cheyenne Canyon - Untreated



NCC Mixed conifer "Before"



FEMA



# North Cheyenne Canyon - Treated



NCC Shaded Fuel Break in mixed conifer



FEMA



# Stratton Open Space - Untreated



FEMA



# Stratton Open Space - Treated



FEMA



# Mount Saint Francis - Treated



FEMA



# Mount Saint Francis - Treated



FEMA



Mason Gulch Fire  
July, 2005  
Fremont County, CO

Fire Behavior - Untreated Gambel oak and Ponderosa pine  
High intensity crown fire, 100% stand mortality



FEMA





Mason Gulch Fire  
Fremont County, CO  
July, 2005

Fire Behavior - Treated Area  
Gambel oak, Ponderosa Pine  
Low intensity, surface fire



FEMA





Mason Gulch Fire  
July, 2005  
Fremont County, CO

Treated area, Post-burn  
Scorching, Less than 25% stand mortality



FEMA



# Contractors / Crew

- Licensed and Insured
- Arborists
- Specialized experience in wildfire mitigation
- Previous city projects
- Seasonal crew



FEMA

# Budget and Matching



- \$1,000,626 (FEMA Grant sub-awarded through CDEM)
- CSFD matching (PSST) \$94,893
- Other matching \$238,653:
  - ▶ El Paso County \$40k
  - ▶ Stratton \$1280
  - ▶ Cedar Heights \$130k
  - ▶ Raven Hills \$17,550
  - ▶ Woodmen \$24,570
  - ▶ Hunters Point \$10,253
  - ▶ Peregrine \$15k



**FEMA**

...“Sharing the  
Responsibility”



# Questions?

## Colorado Springs Wildfire Mitigation



**FEMA**

**Christina Randall**  
**Colorado Springs Fire Dept**  
**May 2009**